

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently Amended) A continuous ink jet printer for delivering droplets of ink; the printer comprising:
 - a print head having a manifold;
 - a plurality of nozzle openings associated with the manifold through which opening ink droplets are delivered from the manifold;
 - a plurality of sources of liquid ink, each source containing liquid ink of a different optical characteristic; and
 - a flow controller selectively communicating the sources of liquid ink with the manifold, whereby ink droplets of selectable optical characteristic are prepared in the manifold for continuous delivery of ink droplets from all of the plurality of nozzle openings, all of the ink droplets having the same optical characteristics as the liquid in the manifold.
3. (Original) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different colors, whereby ink droplets of selectable color are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.
4. (Original) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different density, whereby ink droplets of selectable density are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.
5. (Currently Amended) A continuous ink jet printer for delivering droplets of ink; the printer comprising:
 - a print head having a manifold;
 - a nozzle opening associated with the manifold through which opening ink droplets are delivered from the manifold;
 - a plurality of sources of liquid ink, each source containing liquid ink of a different optical characteristic; and

a flow controller selectively communicating the sources of liquid ink with the manifold, whereby ink droplets of selectable optical characteristic are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the flow controller comprises a pressurized source and a valve.

6. (Original) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the flow controller comprises a pump.

7. (Currently Amended) A continuous ink jet printer ~~as set forth in Claim 2~~ for delivering droplets of ink; the printer comprising:

a print head having a manifold;

a nozzle opening associated with the manifold through which opening ink droplets are delivered from the manifold;

a plurality of sources of liquid ink, each source containing liquid ink of a different optical characteristic; and

a flow controller selectively communicating the sources of liquid ink with the manifold, whereby ink droplets of selectable optical characteristic are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening, wherein:

one of the plurality of sources of liquid ink contains colorless liquid ink communicating with the manifold; and

the flow controller is further adapted to meter colorless ink into the manifold after a droplet is delivered from the nozzle opening to thereby dilute color ink remaining in the manifold sufficiently such that a next desired optical characteristic can be attained by adding ink of appropriate optical characteristic to the manifold.

8. (Original) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different colors, whereby ink droplets of selectable color are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

9. (Original) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different density, whereby ink droplets of selectable density are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

10. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different colors, whereby ink droplets of selectable color are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

11. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different density, whereby ink droplets of selectable density are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

12. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 5 wherein:
one of the plurality of sources of liquid ink contains colorless liquid ink communicating with the manifold; and
the flow controller is further adapted to meter colorless ink into the manifold after a droplet is delivered from the nozzle opening to thereby dilute color ink remaining in the manifold sufficiently such that a next desired optical characteristic can be attained by adding ink of appropriate optical characteristic to the manifold.

13. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different colors, whereby ink droplets of selectable color are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

14. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different density, whereby ink droplets of selectable density are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

15. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 2 wherein:
one of the plurality of sources of liquid ink contains colorless liquid ink communicating with the manifold; and
the flow controller is further adapted to meter colorless ink into the manifold after a droplet is delivered from the nozzle opening to thereby dilute color ink remaining in the manifold sufficiently such that a next desired optical characteristic can be attained by adding ink of appropriate optical characteristic to the manifold.

16. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different colors, whereby ink droplets of selectable color are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.

17. (New) A continuous ink jet printer as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the plurality of sources contain inks of different density, whereby ink droplets of selectable density are prepared in the manifold for delivery from the nozzle opening.